

**MEMORIAL SITE**

Dedicated to the memory of all the service men who flew from the Earls Colne air base in World War II between 1942 and 1945. Grass paths and plantings imitate the original wartime runways and the obelisk is a dedicated war memorial.

**PLAY AREA**

**CRESCENT IN THE PARK**

**ROBINS GROVE**

A secluded area of woodland and one of the best places to see the varied birdlife in the Arboretum. In February the wood is carpeted with thousands of delicate snowdrops, followed by narcissi.

**GONDWANALAND**

Gondwanaland is filled with unusual plantings from across the Southern Hemisphere, including the ancient Wollemi Pines, Monkey Puzzle from the dinosaur's age, and the wonderful scented eucalyptus.

**THE HONYWOOD OAK**

The great veteran Honywood Oak has a 27 foot girth, is thought to be over 800 years old and plays host to a huge range of wildlife.

**SCREAMING OAK**

**MANSION SITE**

Marks Hall Mansion stood on this site until 1950. The mansion hosted both the United States Army Air force and the British Air Force in WWII. Following this it fell into disrepair and was demolished.

**THE COACH HOUSE WEDDING VENUE AND FLOWER GARDEN**

**SITE OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH**

**POUND FIELD PICNIC AREA**

**TAXODIUM SWAMP**

Inspired by the Florida Everglades this area has been created to provide ideal conditions for the swamp cypress to thrive, and provides the perfect habitat to support newts, frogs, toads and the rare hairy dragonfly.

**THE AVENUE**

**THE WALLED GARDEN**

Built in the 18th Century and redesigned in 2003. The garden is a spectacular sight with five contemporary terraced gardens and a 450ft double border.

**THE BIRKETT LONG MILLENNIUM WALK**

This spectacular autumn and winter spectacle is planted to provide stunning reflections in the upper lake. The sweet scent of early flowering shrubs fills the air from January.

**THE LAKES**

The lakes are home to a healthy stock of coarse fish which can be seen in large numbers on warm summer's days.

**SIGN POSTS** **IRON BRIDGE**

**VISITOR CENTRE**

**SUGGESTED WALKS**

**ROBIN'S GROVE WALK - SHORT/MEDIUM DISTANCE**

**GONDWANALAND WALK - MEDIUM DISTANCE**

**MEMORIAL WALK - LONG DISTANCE**

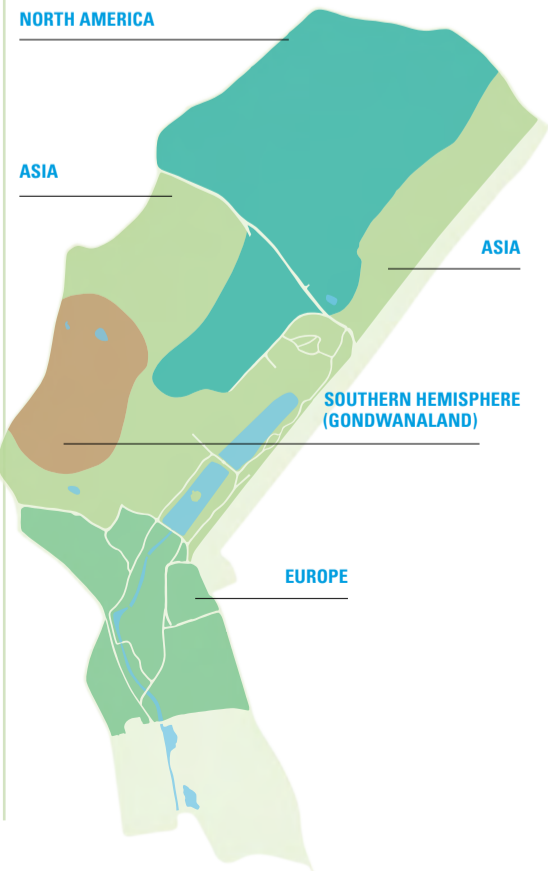
**HARD PATHS**

**SOFT PATHS**

The Arboretum is a dog free area. You are welcome to walk your dog across any of our woodland walks. *Please see next page.*



**GEOGRAPHIC ZONES OF THE ARBORETUM**



**THE RED WALK**

Length approximately 2 1/2 miles - Red Markers

**1 THE IRON BRIDGE**

Built at the turn of the 19th century, the Iron Bridge was extensively restored in 1992 and new cast iron work was produced at a local foundry to replace missing sections. It spans Robins Brook, a tributary of the River Blackwater.



**2 THE AVENUE**

The avenue is 3/4 of a mile in length, and probably once formed the main entrance to the Estate and the approach to the Mansion. The trees were originally all oaks, but now include Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*), and several specimens of the Wild Service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*).

**3 THE DEER FENCE**

All the woodland walks take place outside the Deer Fence, which now serves to protect the many rare and important species planted in the Arboretum.

**4 THE CONCRETE PATHS**

As you navigate the Woodland Walks, you will encounter many concrete paths. These were laid down for access during the wartime occupation.

**5 GRAZING LIVESTOCK**

At many times of year at Marks Hall, you may notice grazing cattle. The grasslands have been fenced and periodically small herds of grazing livestock are introduced. Not only will this reinstate a traditional farmed landscape, it will enable this rich natural environment to support a larger diversity of wildlife including butterflies, barn owls and bats. It also allows wildflowers to thrive.

**6 BUTTERFLIES AT MARKS HALL**

The avenue provides the best chance of seeing the Silver Washed Fritillary. This strikingly beautiful butterfly disappeared from Essex in the 1950s but has been reintroduced by the Trust as part of an extensive conservation programme. They are on the wing in July and August and are often seen under the avenue trees.



**THE YELLOW WALK**

Length approximately 3/4 mile

**1 THE HEDGEROWS**

Leaving the Visitor Centre, follow the hedge leading up the hill towards Bungate Wood. The hedge was planted in 1991 using locally native species including Small-leaved Lime, Field Maple, Hawthorn and Dogwood.



**2 VIEWS OVER THE VALLEY OF ROBINS BROOK**

Looking back over the valley of Robins Brook, the view incorporates the Avenue on the ridge and beyond that, Marygolds, the old estate dower house with Gothic style windows and tall chimneys.

**3 BUNGATE WOOD**

This is ancient semi-natural woodland and contains mature Oak standards with Hazel, Sweet Chestnut and Hornbeam coppice.

**BLUE WALK**

Length approximately 2 miles

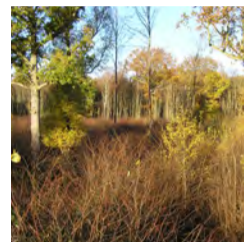
**1 CROWLANDS WOOD**

Crowlands Wood are ancient woodlands, managed as traditional coppice with standards. Whatever time of year you walk this route you will stand a good chance of seeing some resident fallow deer that make these woods their home.

In spring time there is a carpet of bluebells, and the sweet-sounding bird song of nightingales and other spring migrants resonates through the trees.

**2 LITTLE MONKS WOOD**

Wildlife is abundant here and you may be lucky to see owls, woodpeckers and sparrowhawks. Little Monks is also rich in wild flowers and plants containing over 120 different species.



**3 THE TREES AND PLANTS OF MARKS HALL WOODS**

The woods of Marks Hall contain 34 species of important or uncommon woodland plants.

